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RESOLUTION NO. 54 - 2013

**EXPRESSING** City Council's support of House Bill No. 148 introduced in the Ohio General Assembly, which will enact a statewide ban on disposal of the liquid waste resulting from hydraulic fracturing, including disposal in brine injection wells.

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati is concerned about the potential for waste being injected into the ground and being harmful to its citizens and the environment; and

WHEREAS, State and City officials are unable to assess the risks to the public health, safety and welfare of injected waste; and

WHEREAS, according to government and peer-reviewed scientific studies, professional risk assessments, reports from first-hand observations and experiences, as well as credible news sources, environmental and human health impacts have resulted from documented spills, blowouts, leaking wells, and other environmental accidents resulting from the extraction of oil and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the process of hydraulic fracturing requires, among other things, the use of thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals, threatening human health and the environment; the permanent removal of large quantities of water from the natural water cycle, threatening the health of streams and lakes; and increased heavy tanker traffic on roadways, threatening toxic spills and infrastructure damage; and

WHEREAS, the process known as "deep injection" used to deposit brine/toxic fracking waste under extreme pressure in wells several thousands of feet in the earth is considered the safest disposal method, yet has been shown by research to pollute water aquifers and trigger earthquake activity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati wholly recognizes that water is critical for life, remains dedicated to protecting the health of its citizens, and recognizes its location downstream from a vast portion of Ohio's water systems; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the chemicals and solids used in the well drilling process, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has noted that radioactive materials have been found in "fairly high concentrations" in wastewater associated with the oil/gas operations; and

WHEREAS, wastewater from the extraction process is known to contain toxic levels of contaminants, including unknown quantities of undisclosed chemical additives used in hydraulic fracturing fluid, as well as contaminants from sources underground; benzene, naphthalene, formaldehyde, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, total dissolved solids, and radioactive material, such as radium, are among the known contaminants; and companies engaging in the use of this drilling technique have been less than forthcoming in revealing the "cocktail" of chemicals and their concentrations and volume; and

WHEREAS, methods of treatment and disposal for oil/gas wastewater do not eliminate the risks that wastewater poses to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has experienced a dozen unusual earthquakes, the most severe occurring on December 31, 2011, caused by a class II injection well disposing of fracking wastewater, which resulted in a moratorium on injection wells in the Youngstown area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati recognizes that the disposal of fracking wastewater is a significant challenge due to the volume and chemical complexity of the waste, that treating unknown waste is not possible, and that the two current disposal methods in Ohio have an imminent probability of reaching local streams and rivers, which supply our drinking water; and

WHEREAS, in response to City Council's recognition of the health and safety risks posed by the disposal of fracking wastewater, City Council passed Ordinance No. 314-2012, which prohibits the disposal of any waste material through its injection into any land in the City; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Denise Driehaus and Robert Hagan have introduced bills to ban injection wells and the disposal of fracking wastewater in Ohio; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati respectfully request that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio State Legislature move swiftly to pass House Bill No. 148 to ban additional Class II injection wells, which pose known and unknown risks to the citizens of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and sent to Governor John R. Kasich of the State of Ohio, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Chief James Zehringer, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Scott Nally, and the Cincinnati delegation of the Ohio General Assembly.

Passed: May 15, 2013

Attest:

Melissa Ay  
Clerk

[Signature]  
Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls